

Another casualty of Covid was the annual tasting of the new wines from Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin. All merchant reviews this year are necessarily based on what the Perrins themselves say but, having spent the summer of 2019 in the Rhône, their claim that the vintage, like every other one ending in a 9, was first rate, is likely to be spot on. The style of the Perrins' wines has evolved but we can expect the usual style of the wines – powerful first rate Grenache, often well supported by Mourvèdre in particular – with a modern twist that began with the 2006 vintage. As always, it is reasonable (especially in the top wines) to expect long-lived wines of exceptional quality that will put a smile on all our faces.

Notes in italics are those provided by the Perrin family. For some reason they have not provided notes on all the wines so I have provided as much information as I can on other wines.

Château de Beaucastel, Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019 Rouge

£285 per 6 bottles in bond (equivalent to £59.70/bottle)

This wine shows a persistent and fairly deep colour. The nose is pure and very elegant on wild black fruit, spices, floral notes with great freshness. On the palate, the wines reveal rich aromas of blueberries and blackcurrant jam with silky and delicate tannins. The finish is powerful and harmonious, with a very good length. An impressive wine full of complexity. A great vintage.

Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Côtes-du-Rhône 2019 Rouge

£150 per 12 bottles in bond (equivalent to £17.70/bottle)

The Coudoulet de Beaucastel Côtes du Rhône 2019 is a wine with a beautiful persistent colour. The nose shows flavours of black fruit, Provençal herbs, leather and "garrigue". The palate is full-bodied and balanced, almost mineral, with very nice tannins and an impressive length! There is a beautiful affiliation with the great wine of Beaucastel...

Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Côtes-du-Rhône 2019 Blanc

£195 per 12 bottles in bond (equivalent to £22.20/bottle)

A beautiful crystalline and shiny colour with green and golden reflections. The nose is delicate with an attractive bouquet on notes of citrus zest and ginger. Full and complex, the mouth reveals gourmet aromas of apricot and mango and has a long finish enhanced by a little bitterness.

One of the most sought after wines in the range, in part because it is usually impossible for merchants to get an allocation. This year we were lucky and have a (very) few cases available.

Domaine du Clos des Tourelles, Gigondas 2019

£205 per 6 bottles in bond (equivalent to £43.70/bottle)

Located below the village of Gigondas, the Domaine is the last Clos still existing in Gigondas. Its historic three-hectare vineyard of very old Grenache on limestone soils with marly-sand.

The 2019 vintage has a deep ruby colour. The nose is red fruit, violets, liquorice, and mineral touches. Deep and complex on the palate with characteristic aromas of violet and liquorice, great power and well balanced. The 2019 vintage is of great finesse.

Famille Perrin, Gigondas 2019 'L'Argnée, Vieilles Vignes'

£205 per 6 bottles in bond (equivalent to £43.70/bottle)

A small plot of less than 1 hectare of pre-Phyloxera vines (around 100 years old). The yields are very low and production is limited to 1500 bottles a year. We are fortunate to get a small allocation!

The wines have a black-purple colour and offer aromas of blackberry, plum and cassis with delicate hints of liquorice. The palate is full-bodied, with very good concentration, with a magnificent tannic structure; the balance between richness and acidity brings great freshness. Grenache at its best!

Famille Perrin, Vinsobres 2019 'Les Cornuds'

£78 per 12 bottles in bond (equivalent to £10.50/bottle)

The Perrins have a long history of championing Vinsobres and have been working with growers here for decades. One of the best values in the range, this Vinsobres is a blend of Grenache and Syrah in almost equal parts and it shows with much blacker fruit character than other wines display.

Famille Perrin, Rasteau 2019 'L'Andéol'

£90 per 12 bottles in bond (equivalent to £11.70/bottle)

Grenache/Syrah blend from the village which produces some of the region's most powerful reds (after Châteauneuf, Rasteau benefits from higher summer temperatures than any other appellation). The Perrins make a very fine Rasteau which is always rich and full bodied. These are hearty food wines.

Famille Perrin, Vacqueyras 2019 'Les Christins'

£108 per 12 bottles in bond (equivalent to £13.50/bottle)

Produced on a very clayey terroir with stones from the Ouvèze river, the Grenache is dominant and develops a fleshy wine. It's typical aromas of chocolate, cherry and fig match beautifully with the Syrah (violet, spice, liquorice).

Beautiful dark and shiny color. The nose is very expressive, pure and aromatic with great mineral notes. The palate presents a structure of great finesse, elegant with ripe fruit. The tannins are rich, noble and silky.

Famille Perrin, Gigondas 2019 'La Gille'

£156 per 12 bottles in bond (equivalent to £18.30/bottle)

Produced on sandy soils, which cover a small part of the appellation, Grenache expresses great softness and is very aromatic without being heavy. This wine is full bodied but with finesse at the same time.

With a beautiful dark colour, the nose reveals nice notes of red fruit, raspberries, wild strawberries, spices and "garrigue". The palate is powerful, full-bodied, full and of great finesse. The tannins are velvety and the finish is long.

Famille Perrin, Châteauneuf du Pape 2019 'Les Sinards'

£240 per 12 bottles in bond (equivalent to £26.70/bottle)

The other Châteauneuf of the family! For the most part Les Sinards is made from the young vines at Beaucastel and a neighbouring vineyard we farm. Mostly Grenache, this is a classic Châteauneuf du Pape.

Beautiful deep colour with garnet undertones. The nose reveals notes of very ripe fruit (blueberries, blackberries) and some mineral notes. On the palate, the Sinards 2019 is elegant, fine, silky and pure. It is already a very expressive and rich wine; aromatic and fruity, with hints of cassis. The finish is long and harmonious expressing all the quality of this vintage. (Perrin)

And finally,

Arriving in the UK in the next few weeks (along with the 2018s) are some cases of the Perrin's everyday **2019 Luberon Rosé**, an easy-drinking wine, perfect for *aperitifs*, made from Cinsault, Grenache and Syrah. **£42 per 12 bottles in bond** (equivalent to £6.88/bottle)

IMPORTANT

Prices quoted are for wines purchased under bond. As things currently stand, there is duty (currently £26.80 per dozen) and 20% VAT to be added to the cost of the wine, together with any delivery charges. However, at this time it remains unclear what the post-Brexit position will be.

HOW TO ORDER

Please email orders to sales@bigredwine.co.uk or call us on 01638 510803